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Whitehorse, Yukon
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BOREAL INSTITUTE FOR NORTHERN STUDIES
JAN 06 1978
Director's Office

January 3, 1978

SHAKWAK PROJECT

THIS IS AN OPEN LETTER TO ALL INDIVIDUALS AND ORGANIZATIONS HAVING AN INTEREST IN THE PROPOSAL TO UPGRADE AND PAVE THE HAINES ROAD AND THE ALASKA HIGHWAY FROM HAINES JUNCTION TO THE ALASKA BORDER.

The Department of Public Works (DPW) and the U.S. Federal Highway Administration have proposed to pave the Canadian section of the Haines Road and the Alaska Highway from Haines Junction north to the Alaska border.

These two sections of highway have been designated as a single construction project called the "Shakwak Project". In accordance with federal requirements, DPW has prepared an environmental impact statement in regard to the proposal.

A federal Environmental Assessment Panel has been established to review all environmental aspects of the proposal. Public information meetings were held last September and October by DPW to solicit public comments on the project prior to the preparation of the impact statement. Now, the Panel is seeking the assistance of interested individuals and organizations in its review.

Enclosed is a summary of the impact statement, prepared for DPW by Thurber Consultants. Also enclosed for your information are a brochure describing the federal environmental assessment review process and a brief outline of the activities leading to the preparation of the Panel's report to the federal Minister of Environment.

Copies of the full environmental impact statement are available for reference at this office and at the following locations: Yukon Archives, Whitehorse; Haines Junction Public Library; Destruction Bay, Burwash Landing, and Beaver Creek Community Book Stations. Individuals and organizations

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intending to undertake a detailed review of the proposal may obtain a copy of the full document (about 1400 pages in 2 volumes) for their own use, free of charge, on request, from this office.

Those who intend to participate in the review are requested to notify this office of their intention and to submit comments in writing on the environmental aspects of the proposal by February 17, 1978.

Following this, the Panel will hold public hearings for the purpose of receiving further public comment on the environmental aspects of the project. Comments submitted in writing may be highlighted orally at the hearings. In addition, informal meetings will be held in communities along the highway. All information provided to the Panel will be made available to the public.

Following the public meetings, the Panel will prepare its report to the federal Minister of Environment.

Detailed information about the timing, location and format of the hearings will be forthcoming.

Further information about the federal Environmental Assessment Review Process and about the Shakwak project can be obtained through this office.

Sincerely,

J. F. Herity,
Panel Secretary.

Encls.

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SHAKWAK PROJECT

Environmental Assessment Review Schedule

January 3, 1978	Distribution of Environmental Impact Assessment for review.
February 17, 1978	Receipt of written comments on the Environmental Impact Statement.
March 3 - 7, 1978	Public hearings on the environmental aspects of the project.
March 8 - 31, 1978	Preparation and submission of Panel report to Minister of Environment.

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Fisheries and Environment Canada
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Commission des évaluations environnementales

SHAKWAK PROJECT

Environmental Assessment Panel

Mr. F. G. Hurtubise Chairman
Executive Chairman
Federal Environmental Assessment Review Office
Environment Canada

Mr. P. H. Beaubier
Regional Manager, Land Resources
Department of Indian and Northern Affairs

Mr. W. A. Bilawich
Special Advisor
Government of the Yukon Territory

Mr. W. Koropatnick
Director General, Pacific Region
Public Works Canada

Dr. D. S. Lacate
Regional Director, Pacific Region
Lands Directorate
Environment Canada

Mr. J. P. Secter
Co-Ordinator of Environmental Services
Land Management Branch
Ministry of the Environment, British Columbia

Mr. C. E. Wykes
Director, Yukon Branch
Environmental Protection Service
Environment Canada

Date Due

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HERITY, J.F.
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